

James L. Bernat, M.D.

James L. Bernat, M.D. is a neurologist and bioethicist at the Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine where he was the Louis and Ruth Frank Professor of Neuroscience and is now Professor of Neurology, Emeritus. Following graduation from Cornell University Medical College, he trained in internal medicine and neurology at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. He has been a Dartmouth medical faculty member since 1976. Dr. Bernat has been elected to fellowship in the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Neurology, the American Neurological Association, and the Hastings Center. His scholarly interests are ethical and philosophical issues in neurology, particularly disorders of consciousness, the definition of death, brain death, and death determination in organ donors. He has authored over 300 journal articles and chapters on topics in neurology, neurocritical care, bioethics, and biophilosophy. He is the author of *Ethical Issues in Neurology*, 3rd ed. (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008) and co-editor of *Ethical and Legal Issues in Neurology* (Elsevier, 2013), *Palliative Care in Neurology* (Oxford University Press, 2004) and *Death Determination by Neurologic Criteria: Areas of Controversy and Consensus* (Springer, 2022). In 2011, he received the American Academy of Neurology Presidential Award for lifetime service to American neurology, in 2022, the International Neuroethics Society Steven E. Hyman Award for Distinguished Service to the Field of Neuroethics, and in 2026, the American Academy of Neurology awarded him Honorary status.